



CALTRANS COMMUTER ALERT

07- 369

Date: December 6, 2007
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CALTRANS ALERTS TO POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF HIGHWAY 18 NEAR SNOW VALLEY

San Bernardino –With impending severe weather and potential for mudslides and falling rocks, Caltrans advises motorists that SR 18 will be closed from Snow Valley to Big Bear Dam for the safety of motorists. Due to the recent fires and for the safety of the traveling public, motorists. Snow Valley will remain accessible via Highway 18. SR-38 from Mentone can be used to access Big Bear if SR-18 closes.

Caltrans will alert the public as road conditions change. Caltrans crews will be available to work around the clock on all mountain routes. Everyone is urged to stay tuned to radio and television traffic alerts. For changes to road conditions check the Caltrans Web site. Go to www.caltrans8.info and click on News and Documents or sign up for e-mail alerts.

A strong storm approaching from the northwest could bring showers as early as Thursday evening, periods of moderate to heavy rain on Friday and strong gusty southwest winds in the mountains on Friday.

Motorists are reminded to be alert to signs and message boards that warn that workers, slow moving equipment and closed lanes are ahead. Cones and/or drums will direct motorists to open lanes. Merge as soon as is safe without crossing the cones or drums. Reduce speeds and be prepared to slow down or stop for highway workers or equipment. Obey special signs or instructions from workers.

Always ***SLOW FOR THE CONE ZONE***. Also, remember that effective January 1, 2007, drivers will be required to move over and slow down when approaching a roadside emergency along a state highway or freeway. This law is designed to reduce deaths of law enforcement and emergency personnel who are aiding stranded motorists. Use caution if lane changes are required. Remember certain roads are designated as Safety Enhanced-Double Fine Zones. Fines are doubled in these areas and also in highway construction or maintenance zones when workers are present (VC 42010).

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